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For God and Country

Vol. 149, No. 6

The Magazine for a Strong America

DECEMBER 2000

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.55 million readers. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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Indianapolis, IN 46207

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Copyright 2000 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices. Annual non-member and gift subscriptions, \$15 (\$21, foreign). Post-sponsored and widows' subscriptions, \$6; single copy, \$3.50. Member annual subscription price \$3.00, which is included in annual member dues. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Internet address: <http://www.legion.org>.**

Change of Address: Notify The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. (317) 860-3111. Attach old address label, provide old and new addresses and current membership card number.

Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 546321. Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post office dated Dec. 22, 1991.



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Tribute long overdue

I read every article in the September issue concerning the personal experiences of Korean War veterans. I laughed, cried and was deeply moved by these gallant veterans whose service to their country was not afforded the wonderful treatment we World War II veterans received. It's about time they received the tributes they deserve, and this issue was one way to let them know we do care.

—Helen Anderson Glass, Tucson, Ariz.

Lesson for next generation

The Korean War stories cry out for reading and understanding. Certainly it can serve as source material for any study of Korea in high schools and colleges throughout the United States and the world. I will keep my copy to pass on to my children and grandchildren.

—Richard H. Griesser, Appleton, Wis.

Korea a major war

I enjoyed the tribute to the Korean War. To our families that lost sons and to those who never came home, it was a major war.

My uncle, Kenneth Lee Green, died in a Korean POW camp. He was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for his actions while there. He was wounded when he arrived at the camp. During one of the notorious death marches, Kenneth — despite his own wounds — carried other wounded soldiers as they fell to keep them from being assassinated by Korean guards.

We are proud of Kenneth and those who gave their lives.

—Randy Brown, Bedford, Texas

Country failed troops

As a Korean War veteran, I really appreciated your coverage of this so-called "police action" ("Lessons From Korea"). I have always felt that my country failed to back our military and

now am more convinced than ever. I felt guilty returning home alive and in one piece while thousands of good people were killed, maimed and missing in action. The lack of civilian leadership to give unlimited support to the troops in the field compounded the casualties and the lack of accounting of POWs. War requires a 100-percent commitment. We did not receive it.

—Gerald "Pete" Brooks, Union, Maine

Sacrifice appreciated

I am a veteran of World War II and Korea. Our armed forces liberated many countries from tyranny. But of all the countries and all the people we freed, the only people I have ever heard thank me on a personal basis are the Korean people. Many times I have had a Korean person take my hand and say, "Thank you for saving my country."

—Ret. Maj. Arthur S. Manchester,
U.S. Army Reserve,
Huntington Beach, Calif.

Sailors' efforts forgotten

I enjoyed the article by James Brady ("Korea"). However, I take exception to his statement that "our battleships and cruisers shelled enemy ridgelines; and our sailors puked up their guts on the Sea of Japan."

I was onboard the destroyer *Frank E. Evans*. In between puking, we man-

aged to bombard Wonsan Harbor, Hungnam, Tanchon, Songjin, Yongdon, Chongjin, Kojo and some of the frontlines themselves. We also managed to rescue three downed pilots. And we were the screen and escorts for the carriers, battleships and cruisers of Task Force 77 that Brady thinks were manned by Marines.

—Alex Sanchez, Yuma, Ariz.



"Thank you" brings tears

I enjoyed the article written by Jack Sauter ("Why Korea was Forgotten"). It's great to get a "thank you" from people whose country you liberated. I will reread this issue from time to time to remind myself that the Korean War will not be forgotten.

—Mike Rivera, Malden, Mass.

Post aids family in crisis

I have been a member of Post 25 in Newport News, Va., since 1992, and I want to commend The American Legion for being the most caring organization I have ever belonged to.

On May 31, my wife was killed in a car accident when a drunk driver struck her car, leaving me alone to raise our five children, ranging in age from 1 to 8.

The Post donated \$300 to our family to help pay bills, and the Auxiliary's chaplain, Darlene Mays, took my children shopping for school clothes with funds from the Post.

These contributions during our time of need were greatly appreciated, and such sacrifice deserves recognition.

—Thomas Cooper, Newport News, Va.

Military in dire straits

Caspar Weinberger's article (U.S. Military: Downsized, Downtrodden and Discontented," October) concerning the sad state of our military just may have been the best anyone has written about the subject. Those who

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Letter writers are also encouraged to submit photographs of themselves for possible publication with their letters. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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didn't read it word for word should do so, then write to their elected representatives in Washington, D.C., and demand that our armed forces be maintained at a level that will permit them to fight two wars at the same time.

— John McLauchlin, Sequim, Wash.

Defense policies futile

It's good to see someone like Caspar Weinberger questioning our defense policies and use of our military. The most gracious thing one can say about any of these policies is that they are pure madness.

Fifty-five years of undeclared wars, "police actions" and peacekeeping expeditions have taught our government nothing. In an effort to regain control over the military in peacetime, Congress passed the War Powers Act in 1973 and since then has allowed one president after another to put our people in harm's way. If we are to be a government of the people, Congress—not our president—should decide when and how to use our forces.

— Clayton L. Hansen, Grand Island, Neb.

Gl's' sacrifice overlooked

I am deeply grieved that 17,730 military personnel who died in service to their country between 1950 and 1953 are no longer honored as fatalities of the Korean War ("Battle-Death Differences Clarified," October). Our government has forgotten that 5.7 million Americans served during that time because of the invasion of South Korea and the possibility of further communist aggression. The dead didn't choose where they served and died, but they did answer the call because of a war in Korea.

Those who died in World War II, no matter where or what the cause, were fatalities of that war. After 50 years, I fail to see the purpose in taking the same honor from those who died during the Korean War.

— Harry G. Burt, Geneva, N.Y.

Death count mystifying

I am afraid Rear Adm. Craig Quigley's clarification of the Korean War casualties leaves me mystified ("Battle-Death Differences Clarified," October). How in the world did those 17,730 deaths unrelated to the Korean War occur? Losing more than 5,000 men a year from noncombat-related action is quite staggering to me.

— Retired Col. John Covach, U.S. Army, Fairfax, Va.

POWs spotted in Siberia?

I found the story about Ann Bakkenen interesting ("Searching for Dad," September) because my wife's half-brother claims to have seen American prisoners in a Siberian prison during the Korean War. After serving in the Finnish army from 1939 to 1945, he was arrested by the Soviets for allegedly crossing the unmarked border. He spent three years in a prison in Leningrad and then was sent to a place called Magadan Kolyon in Siberia, where he claims to have come across American prisoners. He wasn't released until 1992—after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

— Al Cinquepalma, Ruckersville, Va.



Keep close eye on China

I think it's about time our country wakes up and faces the fact that communist China is bad news ("China: The Prowling Dragon," October). Keeping in mind the details of Hitler's incremental aggression may help us recognize a pattern in China today. Not many people seem to know of an admission by President Clinton along that line late last year. A reporter asked Clinton if he worried about Chinese control of the Panama Canal. He answered, "I think the Chinese will, in fact, be bending over backward to make sure they run it in a competent and able and fair manner." The White

House spin machine immediately realized the damage. A sycophantic press, failing to make appropriate use of the story, ignored Chinese plans for the Panama Canal.

— Jim Ware, Baton Rouge, La.

China trade bad move

The Congress and the White House have sold out the United States ("China: The Prowling Dragon," October). Our annual trade deficit as of July 2000 was \$353.7 billion. Much of that is with China. Millions of Chinese people live in poverty and cannot afford to buy our better-made and costly products. The trade imbalance will not improve. As a result of the new trade power given to China, many more Americans will be laid off and unemployed. When the next war comes, who will be skilled enough in the United States to make the durable goods needed to fight? Without factories and equipment, it will take a long time to tool up. This is a disaster in the making.

— Willie Lowe Jr., Callahan, Fla.

Best feeling ever

Regarding your article about the Marines ("Tempered by Fire," August), there's an old saying, "Once a Marine, always a Marine." One has to wonder what kind of indoctrination the Marine Corps does in boot camp that creates an attitude for the rest of one's life.

I agree with Pvt. Glowacki's statement, "This is the best feeling I've ever had in my life." One morning we recruits were given our emblems before marching in review. We marched to commands in the cadence call. It was a magnificent sight. When we passed the stands and received the command to "present arms, eyes right," you could almost hear 60 eyeballs click. I was so proud that day that even now I get choked up thinking about it.

When the march was over, I elected to walk around the base, something I'd never been able to do before. At the gate a bunch of "boots" were unloading a boxcar. As a boot, we were taught to salute anyone with a Marine emblem. I got saluted. I wasn't an officer and didn't deserve that salute, but like Glowacki says, "That's the best feeling I've ever had in my life."

— John Waugen, Anaheim, Calif.

Time for a Common-sense Trade Policy

I've heard it said that common sense isn't all that common. We saw an example of this Sept. 19, when the U.S. Senate ignored China's long record of misbehavior and approved permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR, with Beijing.

While the passage of PNTR was expected, what wasn't expected was how easily the bill would move through Congress. The Senate tally was 83-15; the House vote was 237-197. Along the way, the Senate shot down an amendment calling on China to take small steps toward religious freedom and another empower-

also guaranteed new protections for American exporters.

But there are some disturbing facts behind these promises:

We already have a \$69 billion trade deficit with China, and it will explode in the years ahead because we play by the WTO's rules and China won't. Just as it ignores widely accepted conventions on human rights, nuclear testing and arms sales, China will ignore WTO rules requiring lower tariffs. Like so many of America's other trade competitors, Beijing will protect key segments of its economy and keep many of its trade barriers up, while our markets are flooded with Chinese exports.

Membership in the WTO is supposed to give us relief from this kind of imbalanced trade, but as Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., observed, Japan has been a WTO member for years and we've yet to try open its economy to U.S. imports.

"China brutalizes its own people, sends weapons to our enemies and bullies our friends. And how do we punish them? With a lucrative trade agreement."

ing the president to sanction Chinese firms that sell sensitive technology to rogue nations. President Clinton signed China PNTR into law Oct. 10.

But given the promises made by proponents of PNTR — promises which offered something to virtually everybody — I guess we shouldn't be surprised by the Senate's and the administration's near-lockstep unanimity on this issue.

PNTR's supporters waged a brilliant battle, hitting nearly every regional and political pressure point represented by Congress: Western software firms were promised the elimination of tariffs on high-tech goods and copyright protection; Midwestern farmers were promised an explosion in exports; automakers expect the same.

Since passage of PNTR clears the way for China's entry into the World Trade Organization, the bill's supporters

Lost jobs. It's estimated that America will lose some 870,000 jobs in the next decade as Chinese producers nudge their more-expensive American competitors out of business. The Chinese will be able to do this not because their products or production methods are superior to ours, but because they control a labor force of 20 million slave workers!

Perhaps most disturbing is that it appears principle has taken a back seat to profits. China brutalizes its own people, sends weapons to our enemies and bullies our friends. And how do we punish them? With a lucrative trade agreement. It was just a decade ago, as the winds of freedom blew open the Iron Curtain in Europe and stoked the flames of a peaceful revolution in Beijing, that China's masters used tanks and bullets to clear out Tiananmen Square and murder thousands of students.

Episodes like that made the annual debate over China's trade status necessary. The Legion always contended that it was America's only leverage with Beijing. It drew attention to China's behavior — from its bloody human-rights record to its belligerent treatment of Taiwan — and it provided an incentive for



National Commander Ray G. Smith

form in the Chinese government.

But China's leaders didn't much care for America's yearly review of their behavior. It embarrassed them and humiliated them. Sympathetic American business leaders and political officials even apologized for the annual airing of Beijing's dirty laundry. Well, Americans have nothing to apologize for when it comes to shining a light on Beijing's dungeons. As the saying back goes, when you look in the mirror and don't like what you see, don't blame the mirror.

Thanks to PNTR, Beijing will no longer have to look itself in the mirror. And its people will no longer have a voice in the halls of Congress.

Even so, PNTR supporters stubbornly contend that free trade with China will somehow lead to freedom within China. But that flies in the face of reality. We've traded with China for 20 years, and yet its people remain shackled. As one human-rights observer said the other day, "Beijing is closing down all channels of political dissent even while it's opening its economy."

We should not be cozying up to a country that brandishes weapons and brazenly makes threats like a drunken gunfighter in a bar room. I suppose that saying "No" to tyrannical regimes just makes too much sense.





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Commander takes veterans issues to Hill

By John Raughter
Editor

NATIONAL COMMANDER Ray Smith called on Congress to boost military spending and increase access to VA health care during testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate VA Committees Sept. 27.

"The United States in this year's defense budget is spending as much on defense, as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, as it was spending on defense prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor," Smith said in a committee room packed with Legionnaires, including several Past National Commanders. "This is not a partisan issue — it's an American issue. The importance of protecting and strengthening the national security of this country transcends all political boundaries."

"The American Legion continues to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to make the VA health-care system accessible to all veterans and their dependents."

— Ray Smith

Smith, a North Carolina native, was introduced to the committees by his fellow Tarheel, Rep. Bob Etheridge, D-N.C. "As National Commander, one of Ray's main duties will involve working with us here in Congress to ensure that those who have sacrificed so much for our country receive the benefits they have earned," Etheridge said. "As a veteran of the United States Army myself, I look forward to working with Ray and The American Legion on issues that are important to veterans."

One such issue is The American Legion's GI Bill of Health. Smith explained the importance of the plan. "The American Legion continues to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to make the VA health-care system accessible to all veterans and their dependents. This organization strongly believes lifetime access to VA health care can — and must — become a truly meaningful and lasting benefit of military service. Our proposed GI Bill of Health goes a long way in making this possible."

Smith said Medicare-eligible veterans and their spouses should be able to use VA as the provider of their choice. He said VA should be able to bill Medicare and private health plans for services that VA provides to covered veterans.

"The plan we conceived takes care of older veterans, middle-aged veterans, young veterans and future veterans," Smith said. "It will improve, strengthen and preserve a health-care system that meets the current and future medical needs of veterans, especially those with service-connected conditions."

One committee member, Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., said he supports the plan. "I think we ought to finish the job of helping veterans by adopting the GI Bill of Health."

Smith also said the VA budget needs to be increased. The American Legion is pushing for a \$1.1 billion hike in the fiscal 2002 VA medical care budget. The \$21.6 billion total would be needed just for VA to maintain current services to veterans and their families. The request is based on the \$20.5 billion recommendation for 2001.

Gulf War Illness. A younger generation of veterans was remembered as Filner thanked the Legion for its support of those who served in the Gulf War. "It's been 10 years since the war, yet we still do not have the cause or treatment for Gulf War illness. In my opinion, DoD has stonewalled this. I thank you and your organization for keeping our feet to the fire on this important issue."

In a private meeting with Smith following the testimony, House VA



National Commander Ray Smith testifies before a joint session of the Senate and House VA committees.

Committee Chairman Bob Stump, R-Ariz., shared his concern about National Security. "The number-one reason people are getting out of the military is quality-of-life. They are deployed to too many countries that we have no business being in."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., also met with Smith, Past National Commander Jimmy Dean, Legion Legislative Chairman John Brieden and a delegation of Mississippi Legionnaires.

"I'm sorry that we haven't come up with the votes for the flag, but we'll meet again next year and hopefully (with a new Congress) we'll have enough votes," Lott said, referring to the flag-protection amendment which fell four votes short of the required two-thirds majority in the Senate last spring.

Lott told the Legionnaires that his four priorities next year will be education, Social Security, Medicare and defense. "The Army and Air Force need more personnel. We cut the military too much and our people are strung out across the world," Lott said. "If we don't address our defense needs, it will be our number-one (problem)." □

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Wartime Christmases



Korean vets recall how war's cold reality couldn't stifle holiday spirit.

Tidings from Beijing

The Korean War was not only fought with weapons — it was fought with the mind. A Christmas card was given to me and other U.S. POWs in 1951 during our captivity in a camp on the Manchurian border.

I was in the POW camp for about six months. The Chinese used propaganda like the Christmas card to try to break our will. Receiving that on Christmas, 5,000 miles away from home, was tough. The Chinese hoped it would be a morale-breaker, but it didn't work.

Nineteen of us escaped when we were ordered to pick up new Allied prisoners. A surprise artillery barrage disrupted their arrival and gave us an opportunity to flee. A few miles away, we met up with three U.S. tanks and rode out on them.

I went home after the escape and then to Washington, D.C., where I informed officials about POW locations and conditions.

— Calvin Williams, Houston

Dear Soldiers,

This is the day you have dedicated to "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men." Why are you here slaughtering the Korean people and burning their homes down — freezing and dying 5,000 miles from home where you belong with your families? Why aren't you enjoying a turkey dinner like the Wall Street financiers who sent you here to fight for their profits?

We do not want to fight you, and we bear you no ill-will, knowing that you, like us, are ordinary laboring people and that you have been duped by American warmongers and their Wall Street bosses. We want you to go home, so that we Korean people can build the lives we want in peace. That's why we wish you.....



Left: Calvin Williams was given this innocuous-looking Christmas card during his captivity.

Above: The card's reverse side reveals its real purpose.

Article design and illustration: Holly K. Soria

Home for Christmas – on Armed Forces Radio

We all have our special Christmas song that we enjoy during the holidays. Mine is "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

Being away from home at Christmas is difficult for anyone, but for a service member overseas in a war zone, it can be traumatic. Christmas was only a few days away, and I was in a far-off, hostile land called Korea. I was cold, frightened and lonely. I longed to be home with my loving family to share the warmth and security of their love.

While shivering in my foxhole, I dreamt of being at midnight Mass and opening the presents under the tree with my family. I could taste the delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings that my dear mother cooked for me. While standing under the mistletoe, singing carols with family and friends and drinking hot chocolate, I could feel the tender kiss of my sweetheart on my cheek and the loving embrace of my kid brother.

All was wonderful when suddenly I was shocked back to reality. "Hey, soldier, we're from Armed Forces Radio. Would you like to send a message home?" One guy shoved a microphone in my face while the other operated the recorder. "Say anything you like," he said. With a cracking voice and tears in my eyes, I spoke to my mother and family.

AFR notified my family that I would be talking to them on the radio on Christmas. All my family, friends and neighbors crowded around the radio to listen to me. It was the best present they had that Christmas.

By the way, the last verse "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is "If only in my dreams." And it was. Thanks, Armed Forces Radio.

— Martin Francis Farricker Sr., Woodbridge, N.J.



Martin F. Farricker Sr. in Korea, 1953.

Mom Spots Son on Television

On Christmas 1951, I was serving with the 7th Division, 31st Infantry Regiment, Fox Company. My buddies and I went to Christmas Mass and were thrilled to find it being served by Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York. He was a wonderful priest. He took time to shake hands with as many of us as possible.



Cardinal Francis Spellman, left, greets Philip Kinsella Jr. and other U.S. troops.

many miles away when she was missing him so much was the best Christmas present my mother could get — or I could ever give.

— Philip Kinsella Jr., Barnegat, N.J.

Combat Pay Makes Season Bright

In December 1952, the holiday season ahead looked bleak.

Dot and I had married the previous January, not long after I returned from Korea, and I was now a freshman at the University of Maine. We were both working to keep our heads above water — she in the daytime and me in the evenings — to supplement the GI Bill stipend, which just about covered out-of-state tuition, books and supplies.



Unexpected funds made the Valkenburg Christmas brighter.

After reviewing our finances, even counting deposits on the soda bottles we had ready to turn in, we didn't have enough left over to buy presents for our families. We couldn't even afford the postage to send the presents.

Then one day I received an official government envelope. Did the Marine Corps want me back? After all, the Korean War was still going on.

Imagine our delight when we opened the envelope to find a check for \$495. For what, we wondered?

It was combat pay at the rate of \$45 a month from September 1950 through July 1951. Those 11 months tracked me from Inchon to Seoul, to Wonsan and the Chosin Reservoir, and back south to battle the Chinese in the spring and summer of 1951.

We bought some presents and mailed them home first-class. Dot bought a maternity dress, and we went for Christmas dinner at the fanciest restaurant in town. The first was a necessity, but the last was pure extravagance.

— Norman J. Van Valkenburg, Saugerties, N.Y.

SLAVERY

in the 21st CENTURY

Despite human rights efforts, human enslavement remains a global problem affecting millions.

By Georgie Anne Geyer

NEWSPAPER AND magazine stories nearly every day call our attention to 18th and 19th century sagas of slaves torn from their homelands in Africa and transported to America.

Other articles outline how survivors of the Nazi slave-labor camps of World War II are demanding reparations from countries, or now even corporations, that aided and abetted in their cruel subjugation. Museums are being built from Washington, D.C., to Germany's new capital of Berlin to mark the suffering of countless hundreds of thousands, and the ringing words "Never again!" are heard across the land.

But these very public acknowledgements of slavery in the past hide the even more compelling one in the present that, despite the vaunted revolutionary spread of information and of Internet connections around the globe, the enslavement of human beings is growing everywhere. In sheer numbers, the enslavement of human beings is about to burst upon the world as one of the ugliest unaddressed problems of the 21st century!

Think only of the figures: According to the definitive Historical Guide to World Slavery, approximately 12 million people were forcibly removed from Africa during the transatlantic slave trade from the 16th century until 1867, when the trade was effectively abolished almost everywhere. Of those 12 million, about 596,000 were imported to Ameri-

ca, where hundreds of thousands more were born into slavery. (Earlier figures of 15 million, largely Africans, have in the last two years been changed to the lower number.)

And this year, in this century, in this new millennium? Pino Arlacchi, the highly respected Italian sociologist who worked for years with rare effectiveness fighting the Italian Mafia before being named director general of the U.N. Office for Drug Control and Crime Preven-

tion, made an astonishing report in June 2000. Reliable estimates indicate, he said, that 200 million people may now be in some way under the sway or in the hands of human traffickers—in effect, modern slave traders—worldwide!

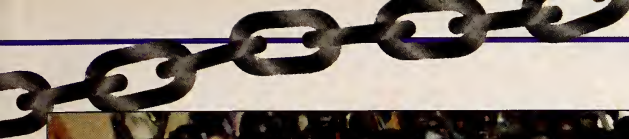
In the last decade, in one specific area alone, more than 30 million women and children may have been trafficked within and from Southeast Asia for sexual purposes and sweatshop labor alone. An estimated 250,000 women and children from Russia and Eastern Europe are trafficked into Western Europe, the Middle East, Japan and North America each year, with more than 50,000 trafficked into the United States.

"This is the fastest-growing criminal market in the world because of the number of people involved, the scale of profits being generated for criminal organizations—and because of its multifold nature," Arlacchi told the *New York Times*. But then he outlined the changes in today's new forms of slavery. "We don't have just sexual exploitation," he went on. "We don't have just economic slavery, which includes two things: forced labor and debt enslavement. We have also a lot of exploitation of migrants. And we have classic slavery. If you put all this together under the same concept, you get the biggest violation of human rights in the world."



In many countries, such as Pakistan, children are subjected to hard labor to satisfy the debts of their parents. This boy's frail body illustrates the horror of sustained suffering.

The Meaning of Slavery. Slavery is defined by common characteristics, which distinguish it from other human rights violations. Today, in terms much



John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International, left, pays a man the equivalent of \$13,200 in Sudanese money for reportedly freeing

132 slaves, background, brought back from northern Sudan to Madhol, Sudan, in 1997. The man denied rescuing them for money.

more like yesterday than most people would like to think, a slave is a person who is: 1) forced to work through mental or physical threat; 2) owned or controlled by an "employer," usually through mental or physical abuse or threatened abuse; 3) dehumanized, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as property; and/or 4) physically constrained or has restrictions placed on movement.

Those classic definitions of slavery come today from the respected Anti-Slavery International, which is the modern-day descendant of the courageous British societies sponsored by the Christian churches that worked so effectively during the 18th and 19th centuries to abolish the abhorred trade.

While in London recently, I traveled to Stockwell, a well-known immigrant neighborhood, to visit Anti-Slavery International, whose predecessors began in 1839. I found a large and attractive brick building, with quietly dedicated people and commodious libraries on the subject that engrosses them so — and the visit was an eye-opener on new worlds without pity.

"Slavery has been known since the Greeks and Romans," David Ould, the deputy director of the organization, began. "Slavery meant the complete ownership of another human being and the

ability to buy and sell him. But the fact is that today we're dealing with something that is far more than that old type of slavery. We still have that 'chattel slavery,' but the actual 19th century form of slavery really doesn't happen anymore. We also have bonded labor, various forms of forced marriage, child labor and the trafficking of women into prostitution. With bonded labor alone, for instance, we're talking about quite large numbers — 10 million-plus across South Asia alone."

A Glimpse of Despair. The examples of human suffering are horrendous. One can only be filled with admiration for moral men and women who can grapple

with such woe.

In India or Pakistan, a 12-year-old girl is either thrown or "persuaded" into a marriage. "There is no use telling a 12-year-old that she has the right to not get married when you have nothing else to offer her," Ould comments sadly.

In Mali or Niger in Africa, among the nomads, a child is taken by a modern "feudal type" to work to fulfill the debt of a father. More likely than not, the child will never be let go and will end up a pitiful, skeletal creature working in servitude for his or her entire life.

In Brazil, young men and women are offered "jobs and pay" to work at supposedly regular jobs in the remote forests of Rondonia. Suddenly they find themselves being transported 2,000 miles and in debt to pay for their transportation; many are never able to pay their way out.

Naïve young Slavic women from Russia and the former republics are taken by traffickers to Israel, Turkey and many other countries, supposedly to work as dancers or waitresses at Western wages. Instead, they find themselves forced, through beatings and through having their new pimps confiscate their passports, to "service" 10 or more men a day in their little hovels.

Reports show that almost 200,000 Nepali girls, many of them under the age

"This heinous trade has become the fastest-growing 'business' of international organized crime, and it is being run by new and particularly vicious networks..."



Children are often trafficked across borders for use as camel jockeys in the Middle East, where camel racing is a popular sport.

Children are sold to agents by impoverished adults who agree to pose as parents of the children in return for employment.

of 14, are virtual sex slaves in India alone; and in Milan a week before Christmas 1999, police discovered a ring holding auctions in which former Soviet women, standing naked on blocks, were sold at an average price of \$1,000.

And the world pays little attention. How can that be? There are several reasons for the virtual silence on these modern forms of slavery, but it is a silence that may be finding its voices.

Legislation and Cooperation. First of all, under international law, slavery is indeed illegal, but such U.N. conventions as would be applicable – like the Slavery Convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery – have no enforcement capabilities in and of themselves. As reported by the Kennedy School of Government, in order to make them effective, “Countries must draft and pass penal code statutes that specifically address each of these commercial sexual-exploitation issues if they wish law enforcement to have the tools to arrest, charge and prosecute traffickers.”

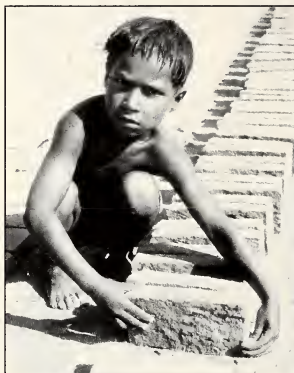
More than 150 countries currently have legislation that would at least minimally target the prosecution of traf-

fickers by prohibiting the procurement of women and children for the purposes of prostitution or forced labor. But most of the legislation was drafted between 1912 and 1960 when the threat was totally different, and the laws are too rarely enforced.

One still finds very little law enforcement cross-border cooperation on a world scale. And even the most concerned law enforcement organization is up against huge criminal enterprises,

many of them formed by the new Russian mafias in the chaos of that country's post-Communist breakdown. This heinous trade has become the fastest-growing “business” of international organized crime, and it is being run by new and particularly vicious networks, which have effectively sidelined traditional criminal syndicates.

For example, in Ukraine, gangsters make more from the women they exploit in a week than the country has in its entire law enforcement budget for the whole year!



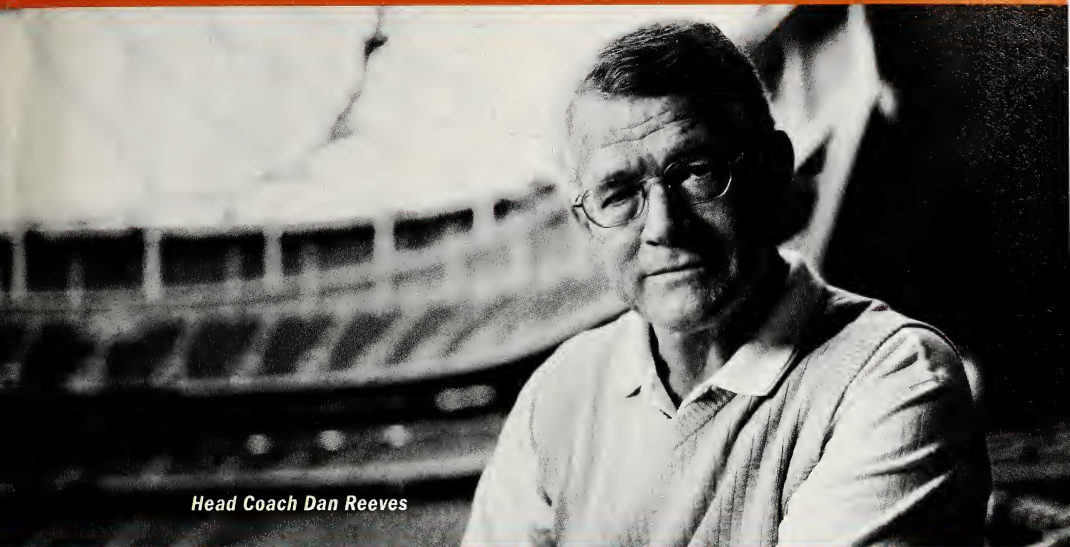
A bonded child works in the scorching sun, making bricks in Pakistan. In some countries, children are destined to spend their entire lives in servitude.

Reversing the Trend. There are some attempts at change. One international Christian group, Christian Solidarity International, has for the last few years pursued a policy, backed by charities in Europe and North America, of buying back slaves in Sudan, where slavery takes almost 18th and 19th century form. These are called “redeemed slaves,” and CSI claims that it has helped liberate more than 25,000 people since 1995. Yet 100,000 people, almost all of them Christians from the South, are still slaves in government-run camps in northern Sudan.

But many distrust this kind of action since such “ransoms” can only act as an incentive for future abductions.

What the most serious mainstream of the anti-slavery movement today is try-

**Suddenly, lowering my high cholesterol
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Head Coach Dan Reeves

Six weeks before one of the most important games of my life, I felt a strange pain in my chest. I went to the doctor to get it checked out. It turned out that three of my arteries were more than 90 percent blocked. I was suffering from heart disease and had to undergo emergency bypass surgery. Fortunately, I had a full recovery, and was able to coach my team in the biggest game of the season four weeks later. Looking back, I wish I'd done some of the things I'm doing now to take better care of myself: a better diet, regular exercise, and taking ZOCOR to help significantly lower my total cholesterol. When diet and exercise are not enough, ZOCOR can help people with high cholesterol and heart disease live a longer life by reducing the risk of a heart attack. **Important considerations:** ZOCOR is a prescription medicine and isn't right for everyone, including women who are nursing or pregnant or who may become pregnant, anyone with liver problems, and people who are allergic to any ingredients of ZOCOR. Unexplained muscle pain or weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to your doctor right away. Your doctor may do blood tests before and during treatment with ZOCOR to check for liver problems. To avoid serious side effects, discuss with your doctor medicine or food you should avoid while on ZOCOR (see next page for details). **Along with diet and exercise, ZOCOR can help lower your cholesterol. Ask your doctor if ZOCOR is right for you.**

For more information call 1-888-563-0019 or visit www.zocor.com.

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PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate. For patients with coronary heart disease (CHD) and high cholesterol, ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; to reduce the risk of heart attack; to reduce the risk of undergoing cardiac procedures (coronary artery bypass grafting and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty); and to reduce the risk of stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA).

WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

Patients with liver problems: ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women who are or may become pregnant: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women who are breast-feeding should not take ZOCOR.

WARNINGS

Muscle: Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lipid (gemfibrozil), and other fibrates; lipid-lowering doses of niacin (nicotinic acid); Sandimmune (cyclosporine); itraconazole, ketoconazole, and other azole antifungal drugs; the antibiotics erythromycin and clarithromycin; HIV protease inhibitors; and the antidepressant nefazodone. Interruption of therapy with ZOCOR should be considered if you are going to take an azole antifungal medication, such as itraconazole, or macrolide antibiotics, such as erythromycin. Avoid drinking large quantities of grapefruit juice (more than one quart daily) while on ZOCOR. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with ZOCOR with the products listed above, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor also may monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Also, since there are no known adverse consequences of briefly stopping therapy with ZOCOR, treatment should be stopped a few days before elective major surgery and when any major acute medical or surgical condition occurs. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

Liver: About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

In the ZOCOR Survival Study, the number of patients with more than one liver enzyme level elevation to greater than 3 times the normal upper limit was no different between the ZOCOR and placebo groups. Only 6 patients on ZOCOR and 5 on placebo discontinued therapy due to elevated liver enzyme levels. Patients were started on 20 mg of ZOCOR, and one third had their dose raised to 40 mg.

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before you start treatment with ZOCOR and periodically thereafter (for example, semiannually) for your first year of treatment or until 1 year after your last elevation in dose. Patients titrated to the 80-mg dose should receive an additional test at 3 months. If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

PRECAUTIONS

Before starting treatment with ZOCOR, try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

Drug Interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

ZOCOR[®] (simvastatin) can interact with cyclosporine (Sandimmune), itraconazole, ketoconazole, Lipid, niacin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV protease inhibitors, and nefazodone.

To avoid possible serious side effects, avoid drinking large quantities of grapefruit juice (more than one quart daily) while on ZOCOR. (See WARNINGS, Muscle.)

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations or of damage to genetic material has been seen. In one study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

Safety in pregnancy has not been established. In studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 3 times the human dose or in rabbits at 3 times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age.

SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. **Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug.** In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In a large, long-term study, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. **This list is not complete. Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.**

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Muscle, Skeletal: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

Eye/Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; livers; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; thyroid function abnormalities.

NOTE: This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the complete prescribing information and then discuss it with them.

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"This is the fastest-growing criminal market in the world because of the number of people involved, the scale of profits being generated for criminal organizations – and because of its multifold nature."

– Pino Arlacchi



Subjecting children to hard labor is a global problem, as with this young Nepalese girl breaking rocks.

ing to do was again captured in Ould's words. "It really eventually comes down to a change in attitudes in local societies and to getting local governments to move. In general, it's not the laws but the enforcement that's important."

A new coalition of unlikely but potentially potent groups is, in fact, coming together in Washington to affect changes in attitudes and build a structure of enforcement agencies across the world. It includes such disparate groups and individuals as the Rev. Charles Colson, feminist Gloria Steinem, a large group of evangelical churches, the Salvation Army, the National Catholic Bishops Association, and Jewish orthodox churches.

The effort is now codified in a bill before the House of Representatives, HR

3244, called the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act," which, as of this writing, has passed Congress.

"What the bill does is to set up a series of minimum standards for the trafficking of young girls by abduction and deceit," explained Michael Horowitz, fellow at the Hudson Institute, which is coordinating the project. "Any country must punish the crime at the level of first-degree rape, instead of little fines. It also sets tests for serious enforcement and would ensure serious punishment. We've adapted American law to meet such standards, but what about other countries?"

The "enforcement mechanism" would consist of a country potentially losing non-humanitarian foreign aid from the United States. The American president would then be held accountable to broach the subject with foreign leaders whenever he meets with them. It would thus be a means of doing what Ould suggests: Use backup power, such as the American influence for international loans, to pressure other countries to begin to obey their own – and international – laws. It is an

indirect and imprecise solution, but one that has worked in the world before and could at least be a place to start.

In the 18th century, when the slave trade was beginning to be undercut by the predecessor organizations of Anti-Slavery International, British abolitionists resolutely forced their government to super-human efforts in order to end the slave trade. After Parliament voted to ban the trafficking of humans in Britain in 1807, the Royal Navy began landing forces in Africa to destroy slave stations; it pursued slave ships to Cuba and to Brazil.

Historians record that in those 60 years between 1807 and 1867, the Royal Navy captured 1,500 ships, freed 160,000 slaves and lost more than 1,300 seamen in the crusade, most from disease. By the end of the 19th century, the United States and most of the nations of the world had abolished slavery, thanks in great part to those valiant men and women.

Now, another fight is looming and it could be an even more dangerous continuation of that earlier fight. Surely it again behooves men and women of morality and good will everywhere to act. □

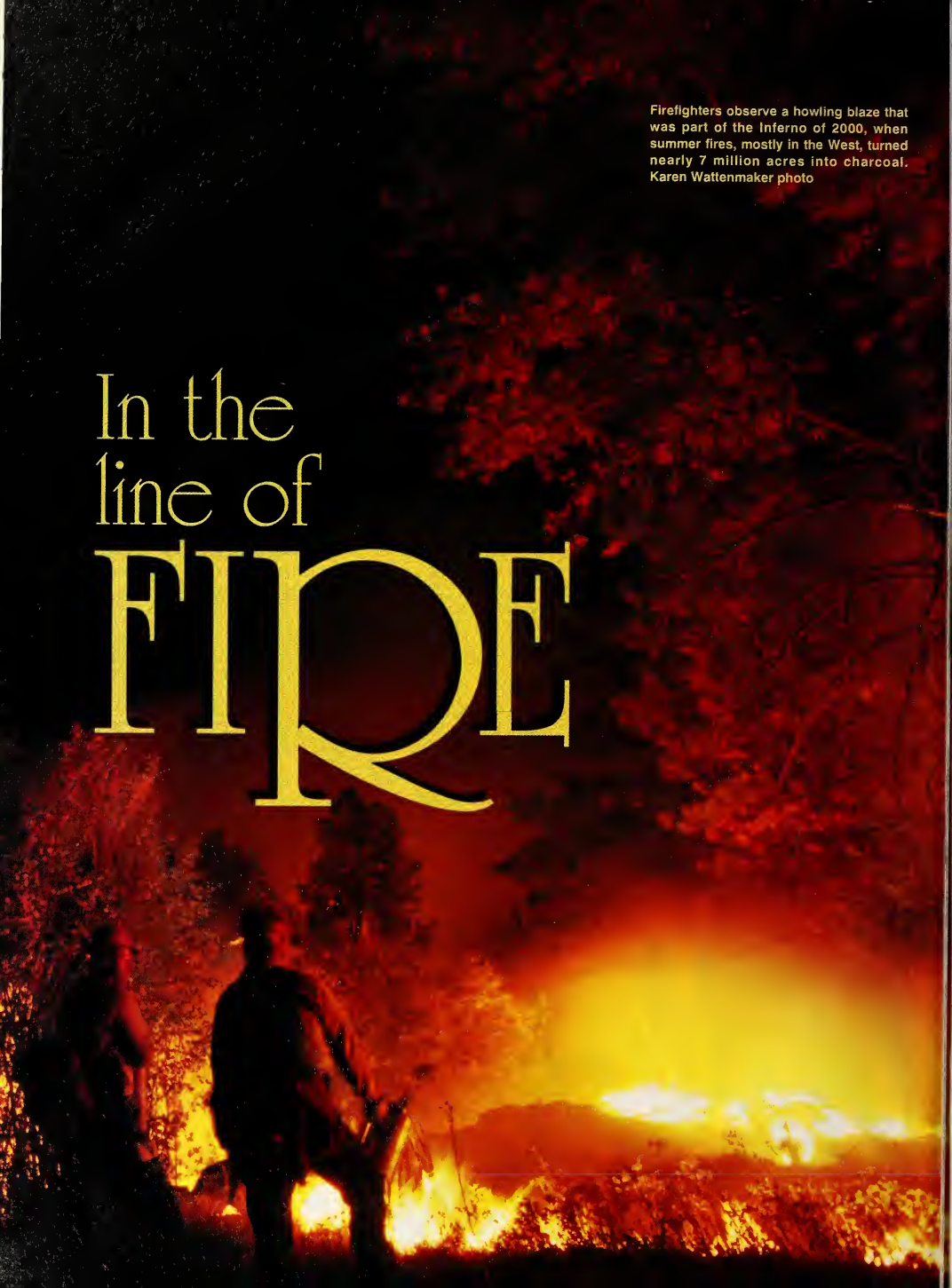


The trauma of working in India's salt flats manifests itself in the hands of a bonded laborer. Chemicals in the natural salt cause severe skin infections.



Georgie Anne Geyer is a columnist with Universal Press Syndicate. She is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison



Firefighters observe a howling blaze that was part of the Inferno of 2000, when summer fires, mostly in the West, turned nearly 7 million acres into charcoal. Karen Wattenmaker photo

In the line of FIRE

Legionnaires fight Matchbox West blazes.

By Peter B. Rose

IT DIDN'T SEEM like the wild fires of 2000 would ever be put out. Nearly 7 million acres, an area larger than Maryland, were burned to charcoal. And they'll be back next summer, like they always are in the Matchbox West – with everyone in these wide-open, forested spaces hoping they will not be so devastating.

Yellow-shirted firefighters from throughout the country, including Legionnaires and military service members, did their best to douse the inferno. To them, it seemed like the end had come to the high country of Idaho and Montana, where villainous winds and the driest of timber turned beauty into beast.

"We fought the fire because the economy depends on the salmon," says Frank Richardson, a husky, bespectacled man with a deep voice that has traces of his Atlanta roots. Richardson, 64, was a military and civilian policeman before retiring in Boise, Idaho, where he has been commander for seven years of John Regan Post 2.

The salmon, he explains, swim 900 miles from the Pacific Ocean, braving dams in the Columbia Gorge and swimming upstream through the Snake River to reach their spawning areas in the Salmon River, which flows through central Idaho. Too much of this territory has gone through a terrible transformation from green to orange to black, dismally affecting everything within it.

"Black soot in the streams and rivers suffocates salmon, which need crystal-clear water to spawn," Richardson declares. "The salmon are a priority, as are the historic mining towns. We fought the fires to keep them up on the mountain."

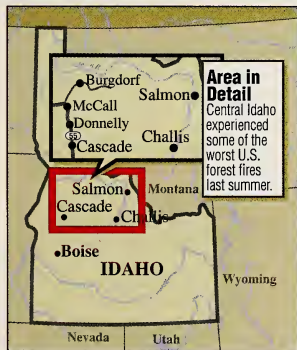
Making a Stand. The immense Burgdorf Junction blaze, where 64,348 acres toasted like marshmallows, blazed out of control for six summer weeks until rain and snow finally helped put it out. This was Richardson's "theater of operations," located in the picturesque uplands 30 miles northeast of McCall, Idaho. In early September, several weeks after the blazes were snuffed out, Richard-



Legionnaire "Smut" Warren, left, advises Garry Gottfried about financial relief at the Laird Creek, Mont., area where Gottfried's house and shop burned to the ground. Warren, now a county commissioner, fought in Korea, is a former boxer and outfitter, and was Marilyn Monroe's bodyguard on her USO trips to Japan and Korea. Tom Strickland photo

son guided his big one-ton Chevy 4X4 "dually" truck with the USAF 1 license plates over the same rough and fearsome roads where he had carried food, clothing, bunks, pumps, hose, fuel and water to sustain the fire-fighting crews. He hauled "the fallers" and other critical personnel.

"They'd figure out where they wanted to make a stand, and we'd get 500-gallon collapsible water tanks strung out on the closest road," Richardson relates. "They'd fight it for a hundred or two hundred yards, and we'd set up another tank, and they'd be up on a ridge with a 2-inch hose coming all the time."



Picture Richardson at Echo Fire Camp, in the Burgdorf area, where dust rises over his shoes, and his gauze-and-cotton surgical mask protects against the thick and penetrating smoke. He's taking Vitamin C pills to prevent colds and sucking throat lozenges to salve his raw throat. He sleeps on hard, rocky ground in a compressing pup tent that aches his bones. Overhead, the eggbeater chorus – the thump and whine of choppers – rushes to drop loads of fire retardant.

"For 39 years my family and I have been coming into these forests for camping, hunting and fishing," Richardson says ruefully. "It becomes a personal thing. That's why I am fighting the fire."

Eagle Eyes. Sixty-five miles south of Burgdorf, from No Business Lookout west of Donnelly, Idaho, Al and Marita Noyes are watching. Their tower is a 360-degree, eagle-eye perch that takes in a kaleidoscope pattern of mountain ranges, lakes and valleys. This is the 10th straight summer that the Noyeses have made lookout towers their way of life. They sleep under Hudson Bay Point blankets, listen to the BBC at night and earn \$9 an hour for their long stretches of surveillance. Al Noyes retired from the Forest Service and is the



Jim Kluesner, of American Legion Post 67 in Salmon, hired on as a driver to fight fires, but found himself pushing hot boulders off the road and desperately battling a blaze that overran his camp.

service officer at the Cascade, Idaho, American Legion Post.

In August the Noyeses spotted a dozen fires eating up the far-flung surrounding territory. When lightning zeros in, it curls their toes. They unplug the electricity, close the windows and pray not to get fried. Lightning bolts singe the air, flashing into the copper cable that surrounds the tower, acting as a ground that blinds them.

When they detect a fire, they chart it and report the azimuth, township, range, section, quarter section and landmark to the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) office in McCall. When another tower makes its report, the crossing lines from the two perspectives pinpoint the fire location.

Initial Task Force. American Legion trooper Alan Wright, 57, a retired Forest Service employee and member of Post 119 in McCall, is liable to respond to their fire call. Employing binoculars, weather kit and maps, Wright's principal fire action has been that of a field observer. He also reacts to fire calls as part of a two-man engine crew and "initial task force" that attempts — with shovels, axes and water from a 300-gallon tank — to put out blazes before they spread.

Although it's hard and dangerous work, Wright enjoys it. "It's what I do. I like being out and part of it," he reflects. The big roaring sounds of a fire that crackles like bacon in a frying pan do not faze Wright, nor do the flames that lick out with wicked abandon as far as 200 feet. He fought the Yellowstone fire of '98 and has been all over the map this summer.

"Hay bales looked like birthday cakes with candles. The air was filled with missiles. Everything was breaking loose and burning up."

— Jim Kluesner

For most of the summer, the town of Salmon in central Idaho was under siege from the massive Clear Creek Fire that threatened to jump the Salmon River and erase it. Jim Kluesner, a member of American Legion Post 67 in Salmon, hired on to drive for the Fenster and Twin Fires that besieged the town. On Sunday, Aug. 6, 11 small fires fueled by 40 mph winds joined into one tremendous force that "blew up" and swept through the base camp at Sula, Mont., that Kluesner and others frantically defended.

"Hay bales looked like birthday cakes with candles," Kluesner recalls. "The air was filled with missiles. Everything was breaking loose and burning up. We lost sleeping bags, tents and vehicles. Twenty-two homes burned up, although we saved hundreds. I now have a different outlook on fires. Whatever your role in fighting them, it's dangerous."

Fire Warnings. While Kluesner had his hands full driving, pushing hot boulders off the road and hosing flames, Orlo Johnson, also of Post 67, as part of the fire-prevention crew, was driving up canyons and draws like Paul Revere spreading the word about

the oncoming enemy. Johnson, who fought with a ski troop in the heralded 10th Mountain Division in Italy during World War II, remains devoted to country and community, even at 82.

Over the Montana line, just south of Darby, Legionnaire and county commissioner "Smut" Warren helped those stricken by fire put the pieces of their lives back together. Among his measures were taking food and clothing to people who had been burned out, meeting with state officials and the public to implement fire recovery programs, and advising individuals on how best to use the law and insurance policies in recovering fire losses.

In the Laird Creek area, Gary and



Frank Richardson, of John Regan Post 2 in Boise, Idaho, views the blackened Payette National Forest. He transported food, clothing, water, firefighting equipment and other necessities to sustain crews.



Nancy Gottfried's house and antique shop have become a surrealistic junkyard. Black, spooky hills glance down on the spread of twisted rubble that they had so carefully built and fashioned. After consulting with Warren, Garry Gottfried remarks, "I get the idea that 'Smut' is one of the few people who cares around here."

since 1961, touches upon the difficulties of pulling this off. "Fires are natural, and fuel is unlimited. We have to figure out how to get rid of some of the fuel while maintaining our wildlife, air and water." □

Peter Rose is a freelance writer who lives in Boise, Idaho.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

Reducing the Threat. Because there are hundreds or even thousands of trees packed into every acre, the threat of fires will remain high, according to fire-management specialists at the University of Idaho. The best way to improve the situation would be thinning forests by cutting and prescribed burns.

Alan Wright, the McCall Legionnaire who has been fighting fires



Tom Strickland



Above, left: From left, Staff Sgt. Jason Hill and Lance Cpl. Tyler Micke, of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Orlo Johnson, of American Legion Post 67 in Salmon, Idaho, and a member of the 10th Mountain Division ski troops in World War II; and Tony Dffenbaugh, of the Kern County Fire Department in California, survey damage caused by the Clear Creek fire outside Salmon.

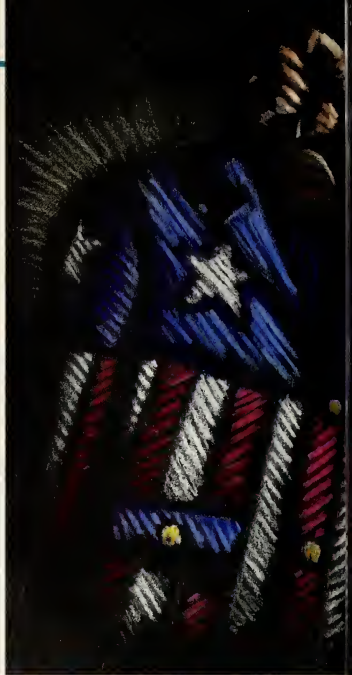
Above: Al Noyes stands beside his wife, Marita, and Alan Wright at the No Business Lookout west of Donnelly, Idaho. The Noyeses, of Post 60 in Cascade, and Wright, of Post 119 in McCall, have fought fires in many different capacities for decades. Last summer Noyes and his wife served as fire lookouts while Wright drove a two-man crew in the red truck seen behind them. Tom Strickland photo

Left: Fires are fought from the flanks, where they are turned away from the direction they want to take.



Kern County Fire Department

THE BATTLE FOR AMERICAN ALLEGIANCE



***Activists seek
to weaken
U.S. citizenship
standards; The
American Legion,
Hudson Institute
fight back.***

By John Fonte

SINCE THE FIRST DAYS of our republic, immigrants have taken a solemn oath upon becoming American citizens, binding them to two basic principles: allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and renouncement of any allegiance to foreign princes, states or sovereignties.

For more than 200 years the Oath of Citizenship has been essential to naturalizing immigrants. Today, however, an influential network of attorneys, academicians and activists is working to weaken this patriotic

oath and water down both the legal and symbolic significance of American citizenship.

Decades of Assault. Unfortunately, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the leading scholars and activists who spend most of their waking hours thinking about immigration and naturalization have worked to weaken American citizenship. Among their attacks on the citizenship process are:

- Ending the requirement that new citizens renounce all prior national allegiances.

- Ending the English language requirement for citizenship because it is "discriminatory."

- Making citizenship tests easier or



Sean McNally

eliminating them altogether.

- Changing laws to encourage non-citizen voting.

- Promoting more dual citizenship.

- Creating new legal categories of "discrimination" that would consider non-citizens members of "victim" groups and, thus, deserving of preferential treatment.

- Using recent international law on immigration to override traditional principles in U.S. constitutional law.

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal* in March 1998, Peter Schuck and Peter Spiro, two leading immigration law professors, complained that since 1795 immigrants seeking American citizenship have been required "to renounce 'all allegiance and fidelity' to their old nations." They advocate dropping this renunciation clause from the oath.

Moreover, they suggest modifying the traditional idea of the hyphenated American. Instead of Dominican-Americans or Mexican-Americans, loyal citizens who are proud of their ethnic roots, they prefer "dual nationals" – people who are both "Dominican and American" or "Mexican and American" who retain loyalties to their original homelands and vote in both countries.

Sadly, those professors aren't alone. Louis Henkin, a prominent

"Is it in the best interests of American democracy for new citizens to retain their old citizenship, including political allegiance, voting rights, military service and emotional commitment to another nation? Is it possible to be an active, informed and loyal citizen in two countries at the same time?"

scholar of international and immigration law, attacks "archaic notions of sovereignty" and calls for largely eliminating "the difference between a citizen and a non-citizen permanent resident" in all federal laws.

Washington University law professor Stephen Legomsky argues that naturalized American citizens in influential positions should not be required to give greater weight to U.S. interests in the event of a conflict between the United States and the country in which they are also dual nationals.

Becoming American. Is it in the best interests of American democracy for new citizens to retain their old citizenship, including political allegiance, voting rights, military service and emotional commitment to another na-

tion? Is it possible to be an active, informed and loyal citizen in two countries at the same time?

At the core of American self-government is the concept of "We the People" – the American people. In taking the oath, the immigrant is joining the American people and transferring full political allegiance (but obviously not all ties and affection) from his or her birth nation to the United States.

Do we wish to abandon the idea of an American people – "one people," as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution? There can be no single American people if its members are at the same time legally and morally part of other nation-states.

To retain allegiance to another

constitution other than the U.S. Constitution, and thus continue to belong to another people besides the American people, is inconsistent with the moral foundations of American democracy. Self-government means that we have the right to determine the rules of admission to citizenship, and there is no evidence that the American people favor dropping the principle of "transferring allegiance" that has been part of our law since George Washington's presidency.

In a recent address to citizenship candidates in Baltimore, the keynote speaker declared: "You entered this building as Poles, Mexicans, Filipinos, and Dominicans but you will leave as Americans. Few countries in the world allow such a thing. An Irishman, after all, cannot become Chinese, nor can a Salvadoran become a Nigerian. And yet each of you, from whatever country, will soon become an American. Taking American citizenship, becoming part of the American people, is not like getting a new job or changing apartments. It is a very serious thing you are doing — more like getting married or adopting a new religion."

The tradition of immigrants leaving a previous people and joining the

American people has been with us since the early days of our republic. It is clear from the writings of America's founders that they welcomed the contributions of immigrants and, at the same time, supported "patriotic assimilation." In a letter to John Adams, Washington wrote that he envisioned immigrants becoming "assimilated to our customs, measures and laws," ensuring that native-born citizens and immigrants would "soon become one people."

More than 100 years later, President Theodore Roosevelt echoed the sentiments of the founders when he declared, "In the first place we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American."

Americans today, from all races and ethnic groups, think very much like Washington and Roosevelt and support "patriotic assimilation." Public Agenda, the respected social science research firm, recently reported

that 79 percent of parents of all races and ethnicities favored emphasis on "pride in and learning about America" over "focusing on pride in their own ethnic group's identity and heritage." The study also revealed that 73 percent of foreign-born parents emphasized American pride and 65 percent believed that schools should "help new immigrants absorb America's language and culture as quickly as possible, even if their native language and culture are neglected."

What is to be done? We are clearly engaged in a great struggle that will determine if the American people will continue to be a self-governing, free people. Major trends of the past few decades, including the rise of multiculturalism, bilingualism, dual nationality, group rights and group consciousness, along with the erosion of long-standing laws and traditions, have contributed to the weakening of American citizenship and, thus, to our self-government.

There are many fronts in this struggle. In education, we must transmit to all American students the heritage of the American people, not the separate histories of the different "peoples" of



America, as the discredited National History Standards put it.

In policy and law, we should support traditional congressional authority and prevent activist judges from undermining our citizenship laws.

To meet this challenge, two organizations from America's heartland – The American Legion and the Hudson Institute – have formed an alliance, the nonpartisan Citizenship Roundtable. Our first order of business is to preserve and protect the traditional Oath of Citizenship for new citizens. We will send a statement of principles affirming the traditional oath to every member of Congress. This statement, which affirms the tra-

ditional oath, appears in the box below. We urge you to sign it, clip it and mail it to your member of Congress.

To send it to your senator, address the correspondence to: The Honorable (*full name*), U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For your representative, mail it to: The Honorable (*full name*), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

During the coming year, the Citizenship Roundtable will monitor the current INS effort to "re-engineer" the citizenship test for new citizens. We will work to ensure that the new citizenship test is not watered down. We believe that a substantially and ceremonially rich naturalization

process is absolutely necessary for the type of active, informed and loyal citizenry that our constitutional democracy requires.

At the end of the day what is at stake in this struggle over the meaning of citizenship is the survival of America as a constitutional democracy, as opposed to a "nation" that is a mere geographic unit in which "citizenship" and self-government become meaningless. □

Dr. John Fonte is director of the Hudson Institute's Center for American Common Culture.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

We Reaffirm the Oath of Citizenship

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

We are concerned that there is a movement in legal circles working to change the substance of the above Citizenship Oath. Therefore we raise this issue forthrightly and call for the **reaffirmation** of the Oath of Citizenship.

Immigrants have strengthened America and we welcome them. We are "a nation of immigrants" descended from every corner of the earth. Precisely because our democracy is based upon political allegiance and our common civic culture – not as in many other countries, on race, ethnicity or religion – **we believe that the meaning of this allegiance should be affirmed for millions of new Americans.** Thus, its significance should be part of the citizenship test.

As the Oath now stands, an immigrant is joining the American people and transferring full political allegiance (though not necessarily all ties and affection) from his or her birth nation to the United States of America. We reaffirm this truth.

This Oath – this transfer of political loyalty and allegiance – is the heart of naturalization. To retain allegiance to a foreign state is to continue membership in another people and is inconsistent with the moral and philosophical foundations of American democracy.

We affirm the essential truth of the following statement in a recent address to citizenship candidates: "You entered this room as Poles, Mexicans, Filipinos and Dominicans – but you will leave as Americans. Taking American citizenship, becoming part of the American people, is not like getting a new job or changing apartments or putting on a new suit of clothes. It is a very serious thing you are doing – more like getting married or adopting a new religion."

This statement of principles has nothing to do with the food one eats, the music one listens to, the religion one practices, the affection one feels for the land of one's birth or the languages one speaks. It concerns only our desire to **preserve our nation's political cohesion by affirming the new citizen's sense of allegiance to American constitutional democracy.**

We should reaffirm the Oath's unbroken line of tradition from the American founding to the present made clear in its renunciation of all prior political allegiances.

George Washington once wrote to John Adams, envisioning immigrants "assimilated to our customs, measures and laws." **Native-born citizens and immigrants would therefore "soon become one people."** We should keep faith with this heritage and reaffirm Washington's wisdom.



A CONVERSATION WITH AMERICA

Immigrant-activist devoted to uncovering our nation's roots.

DR. BALINT VAZSONYI, director of the Center for the American Founding and author of "America's 30 Years War," is a throwback to another era. He's a man who could easily have lived during the Renaissance or Enlightenment. An accomplished concert pianist, historian, author, professor and entrepreneur, Vazsonyi seems to possess boundless reserves of energy and curiosity. "I'm still trying to figure out what to be when I grow up," he quips, now producing a documentary film while running a think tank based in suburban Washington, D.C.

Yet he's not your typical Renaissance Man. Vazsonyi has run for mayor of a Midwestern college town. He can quote Jerry Seinfeld and James Madison with equal ease. And his message resonates not just with intellectuals, historians and policymakers, but with high school students, homemakers and civic leaders.

When it became apparent that the Soviets had crushed the 1956 revolution in his native Hungary, Vazsonyi fled on foot across the border into Austria. There he waited until Congress lifted its ban on Hungarian immigration. He arrived in Florida in 1958.

Vazsonyi has spent most of his life in America. He gained national prominence as he led the "Re-elect America" bus tour across the country promoting a national discussion on the principles that have made America free and prosperous – the rule of law, individual rights, security of property and a common national identity.

According to Vazsonyi, those four principles "are stronger than the issues which divide us." The tour was suspended in May to allow Vazsonyi to devote more time to a documentary covering those same issues.

Associate Editor Alan W. Dowd interviewed Vazsonyi as work on his documentary film moved into the final phase.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE:
The Re-elect America Tour traveled to half of the state capitals before it was suspended to allow you and your

staff to focus on the production of a documentary on the same topic. Do you have any thoughts or reflections on the tour?

DR. BALINT VAZSONYI: You're asking me at an excellent moment. We are just about halfway through editing our documentary about the bus tour. And it's absolutely amazing to see how much of America we came in contact with.

We wanted to start a national conversation about the principles upon which America was founded. What is interesting is that every time we had a forum, the fundamental issues that unite us came into sharper focus – the rule of law, individual rights, security of property and our common American identity. It's misleading to read the newspapers and watch television, because when you go out there to America, people are very interested. Governors, mayors, high schools, colleges, public-policy institutions, the Legion, the people on the street – all of them joined the conversation.

Even though our friends at the Legion and other supporters were disappointed when the tour was suspended – as we were – remember that we crossed the continent two times. And there is such a thing as diminishing returns. And I think there was some kind of providence at work in what we have done, and I really mean this: the way it worked out, we came home, sifted through everything and now will report it to the nation, having taken our message to half the country. Actually, if you add up the population of the states we visited, it's a little bit more than half the country.

Q: Could you discuss your progress on the documentary?

A: It's absolutely elating to sit here and produce this documentary. We are trying to put together a one-hour documentary, but we have material for a 10-hour documentary.

If all goes well, it will be broadcast on WETA, one of the three flagship stations of PBS. They have given us a letter of intent to schedule and broadcast the documentary.

Our working title is "Talking with America: A Conversation Across Party Lines." If it's successful, we will be happy to produce another with additional footage.

Q: During the tour, you often spoke about the American Flag. Could you comment on the Supreme Court deci-



Dr. Balint Vazsonyi offers a civics lesson during a town meeting in Indianapolis. The American Legion was a sponsor of his tour of America in the winter and spring of 2000.

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Freedom-minded rebels cheer the capture of a Soviet tank during the failed Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

sion that struck down the flag-protection laws and the constitutional amendment that failed to get the necessary number of votes this spring in the Senate?

A: All things being equal, we shouldn't need a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. It should be in people's hearts.

I find it an unwelcome development that the need has even arisen for an amendment. Until only very recently, it would not have occurred to anyone to desecrate the flag. I can see no reason to desecrate the flag. A person who does that should simply be expelled from whatever community he lives in. It has nothing to do with the free expression of opinion. People can say whatever they want in America. That is a right guaranteed by the Constitution. If they hate this country enough to desecrate the flag, they ought not live in this country.

I think the Supreme Court should not take it upon itself to treat something that is an act as if it were speech. The Supreme Court really has no mandate to change words in the dictionary. What the Constitution protects in the First Amendment is the freedom of speech. To burn the flag is not speech. I don't think the Supreme Court or any other authority can look at these words and conclude that when the founders said speech they meant something else. The framers spoke English exceedingly well, and if they had meant other things, they would have put them in there.

Q: What do you recommend concerned Americans read to make them better citizens in this republic?

A: That's a very interesting question. First of all – and I sound like a broken

record – the founding documents are a source of continuing fascination and a pleasure to read. Every time I open them, I find something new and interesting. And that is true of all great works.

I think George Washington's farewell address is one of the finest things for Americans to read to remind themselves of the greatness of the man and the beauty of the thoughts he had. Much of what we have from Benjamin Franklin is worth reading and rereading. The correspondence between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams is something I would mention. All of this would help us keep in touch with America the way it should be.

As far as literature is concerned, I've always been a great fan of Mark Twain. I started reading him in Hungarian at about the age of 10. Reading him is another way of keeping in touch with America's foundation. Of course, I'm tempted to say that since there is so little reading going on nowadays, reading anything is important.

Q: Do you have any thoughts on the greatest challenge facing America today?

A: The greatest challenge facing America is to realize in this fast-paced life and tremendous noise of the beginning of this new century that the original ideas upon which America was founded are still the only game in town. Not only has no one come up with anything better, but it was a true miracle that the founding of America happened.

Everything we need for this country to be a better place is right there in the Constitution. If Americans hear this message, America will survive all challenges in the future as it has in the past. □

Article design: Doug Rollison



BALINT VAZSONYI
In his 1998 book, Vazsonyi claims America is experiencing its greatest national divide since the Civil War.

BALINT VAZSONYI *Freedom's Messenger*

1936: Born in Budapest, Hungary.

1956: Achieved Artist's Diploma from the Liszt Music Academy of Budapest.

1959: Emigrated to the United States.

1960: Earned a Master of Music degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.

1964: Granted U.S. citizenship.

1977: Became the first person to perform all 32 of Beethoven's sonatas in concert in order of composition.

1978: Appointed Professor of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

1982: Awarded a Ph.D. in Music by the University of Budapest.

1991: Ran for Mayor of Bloomington, Ind.

1993: Named Dean of Music at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Fla.; accepted position as a senior fellow at the Potomac Foundation in McLean, Va.

1995: Became director of the Center for the American Founding at the Potomac Foundation.

1998: Wrote "America's 30 Years War."

2000: Launched a tour of the 50 state capitals to promote the principles that make America distinct and great; producing a documentary on these principles.

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HEPATITIS C – A DISEASE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

Ten percent of veterans may be infected.

By Phyllis Zauner

THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS is an insidious intruder. HCV settles into your bloodstream with few warning signals and leaves no visible calling card for future reference. In fact, it's unlikely that even at the time of infection you will feel any symptoms.

The big surprise may come to you 20 or 30 years down the line when you learn that while you weren't paying attention, the virus had been busy laying claim to your liver. Unless some intervening routine physical examination reveals liver antibodies, this ticking time bomb could lead to cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer or even death.

Statistics are alarming. Whereas the rate of hepatitis C infection among the general public runs less than 2 percent, the Department of Veterans Affairs esti-

mates that 10 percent of veterans are now infected with HCV. Vets who contracted the disease in Vietnam 25 to 30 years ago may only now be showing signs of severe liver disease.

The reason the virus remained undetected for so long is that until 1989 it had never been identified. Another year passed before a test became available to identify individuals who had been exposed to this mystery virus.

"Veterans may be five to 10 times more likely to have hepatitis C than the average American," said Dr. Teresa Wright of the San Francisco VA Medical Center. "This is a blood-borne disease, and its most common cause has been blood transfusions. Until 1992 no accurate method of screening the blood existed. Being transfused with infected blood represented a major risk factor."

The Battle for Prevention. Fortunately, efficient blood screening has since reduced the frequency of post-transfusion



Blood transfusions were a common cause of the spread of hepatitis C among wounded U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam War.

hepatitis C from 10 percent to less than 0.5 percent. Still, the burden of those who were infected in earlier transfusions remains. Currently there is no vaccine available to immunize against this virus, and one is not likely to appear soon.

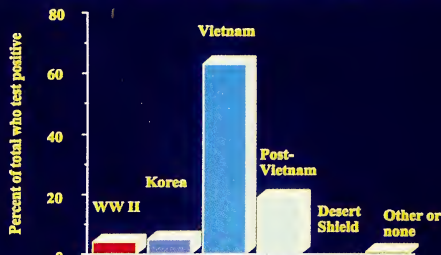
On the brighter side, Wright said, "If we can identify and test people at risk before the virus has settled in irreversibly, we may be able to eradicate it. Even where some mild liver damage has occurred, we may be able to reverse the disease."

This optimistic possibility prompted Wright to propose a national VA program that would evaluate 11,500 veterans infected with hepatitis C for possible treatment. Dr. Lennox Jeffers, Wright's colleague at the Miami VA Medical Center, have been named the lead investigators for the study. Together they have set up a program to make the newest drugs available to any veterans who qualify for treatment.

"We decided that Dr. Stephen Rossi,

Epidemiology

Military Service of HCV Seropositive Veterans



G Rossie, 1998
21,904 unique SSNs
897-6798

Veterans who served in Vietnam far outpaced those who served in other conflicts since World War II in contracting hepatitis C.

who heads up viral clinical research here at the San Francisco Medical Center, was the one who would work with us, coordinating the entire national process and making things happen. We work as a team."

Thirty centers were chosen that would provide a representative sample of the nation's VA patient population. The drug used is a combination of interferon (an immune system booster) and ribovirin (an antiviral drug) produced by Schering Laboratories, which put up \$2 million to get the project started.

Within the first six months, 2,000 veterans were enrolled in the VA project. Wright expects that only one in 10 will meet the criteria for treatment because many cannot tolerate the medication.

Veterans found eligible to participate will be treated with a combination of interferon and ribovirin. Interferon is the basic ingredient in all medications being developed, but when used alone (interferon monotherapy) it shows only limited and transient response.

A Bigger Problem. The need to address hepatitis C was publicized two years ago when Congress investigated whether VA was doing a proper job. It became clear that those at higher levels of VA didn't actually realize how big the problem was, or that military training and combat offer many opportunities for transmitting this disease through blood-to-blood contact.

Now that the light of publicity is shining on the disease, several pharmaceuti-

"Veterans may be five to 10 times more likely to have hepatitis C than the average American."

—Dr. Teresa Wright,

San Francisco VA Medical Center

cal companies are working to develop a drug that combines interferon with other ingredients. One of the most promising is Pegasys (peginterferon alfa-2a), now in development by Hoffman-LaRoche.

Data from randomized tests have shown that 36 percent of HVC patients (without cirrhosis) have had a sustained response to undetectable levels of HVC. Those with cirrhosis of the liver, however, are the most difficult to treat.

While the results of drug company trials show great promise, Wright realizes that small groups of 200 to 300 can't provide the range of results VA will encounter in the thousands they test. Equally important, participants in drug company trials may not be as multiracial as a veterans' group, which might distort statistical results. Wright is determined that the results achieved at VA trials accurately reflect the specific nature of the veteran population.

"We want to be sure that the results we get at our VA testing project are accurate for our people, not just what the drug people have learned from their tri-

als," she said. The virus invades the entire body, not just the liver, often leaving a feeling of general malaise. Many patients have underlying problems that can be aggravated by the medication, such as substance abuse, depression or psychiatric disease, Wright said.

"We also have to be concerned that minority persons, not included in the drug company trials, may react differently to the medications. VA medical centers treat a high percentage of minority persons. We hope to have results from our tests in a year and a half, maybe two years.

"New medications will be developed as we go along, tailored for our patients who cannot tolerate the present drugs. They will get three injections a week plus pills. But a new generation of drugs now being developed — maybe in a year — would require only one shot a week."

The Difficulty with Hepatitis C. While vaccines for hepatitis A and B have been developed, C eludes both prevention and cure. "Some of the problems are the same ones we've encountered with HIV," Wright said. "The protein coating constantly mutates. So even when scientists come up with a vaccine that primes the body's immune system to recognize the intruder, it is effective for only a short time."

Another difficulty experienced by vets in the past has been proving that their hepatitis C infection are service-oriented. Even some who were treated while in service have been unable to prove that the current infection is not new, but related to military service. The Executive Committee of The American Legion has taken a strong stand on this, encouraging VA to study the issue of presumptive service connection for hepatitis C.

With optimistic efforts working in several directions, it seems possible that the road is being cleared for a better future for hepatitis C sufferers. □

Your Health is a column written to provide general information to our readers. It is not intended to be nor is it medical advice. Readers must consult with their personal physicians when they have health problems.

Phyllis Zauner, a California author, is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

*Article design and illustration:
Doug Rollison*

VA Treatment for Hepatitis C

The American Legion Director of Health Care, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is working with VA to provide veterans with information on how to file a claim for diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C incurred during a tour of duty.

■ All veterans have the right to receive hepatitis C virus testing and counseling. If no appointment has been made (they are difficult to get), it is still possible to walk into an HCV or liver clinic and request a time slot to speak with a counselor (two slots are held open each day for walk-ins).

■ Veterans using alcohol or drugs are not eligible for therapy and may not be recommended for treatment if under psychiatric care.

■ A liver biopsy may be required, but can be refused.

■ Veterans have the right to first-line hepatitis C therapy, which is a combination of interferon and ribovirin.

■ Every vet has the right to refuse participation in clinical trials.

■ Establishing entitlement to service-connected hepatitis C disability is not easy. Claims are routinely denied on grounds they are not "well-grounded." However, Congress is considering legislation to change this.

■ If help is needed, an American Legion veterans' service officer will help prepare a well-grounded claim. A photocopy of the VA claims will be required, plus an opinion letter from a doctor. The claim should include a statement of risk factors to which veterans were exposed during service.

■ When scheduled for a VA Compensation Exam, the examiner should be required to write an opinion letter regarding the link between the veteran's current infection and in-service events. Without this opinion, the claim will be denied.

■ If the claim is denied, the next step is the Board of Veterans' Appeals. It's a complicated process and may require the help of an attorney.



Mountain Landing Garnered MOH

Wingman assisted pilot at great personal risk.

By Edward F. Murphy

ON DEC. 4, 1950, engine trouble forced Ensign Jesse Brown, the Navy's first African-American aviator, to crash-land his F4U-4 Corsair in the rugged mountains north of Korea's Chosin Reservoir. The impact twisted the plane's fuselage, trapping Brown.

As seven remaining Corsairs circled protectively overhead, the flight leader radioed for a rescue helicopter. However, when Lt. j.g. Thomas J. Hudner Jr., Brown's wingman, noticed smoke drifting from Brown's damaged cowl, he decided to land his fighter despite the damage that terrain had inflicted upon Brown's plane.

"It wasn't a hard decision to make," Hudner recalled. "We were a team. One of us was in trouble. Somebody had to help. I decided to be that one."

He chopped power and banked sharply earthward. His plane hit hard during a wheels-up landing, but remained intact as it ground to a halt less than a hundred yards from Brown's wreckage.

Hudner ran to his friend. The heavy, wet snow clung to his boots, making it difficult to climb up the side of Brown's plane. Finally, Hudner hoisted himself upward to hang precariously over the edge of the cockpit. What he saw confirmed his worst fears.



Despite a daring rescue attempt, Ensign Jesse L. Brown couldn't be saved.

Trapped. "Jesse's legs were trapped under the instrument panel, and he'd dropped his gloves. He hadn't been on the ground 20 minutes and already his hands were stiff."

Hudner struggled to free Brown, acutely aware of the acrid smoke wafting past the cockpit. While he worked, Hudner offered Brown encouragement.

"I could tell Jesse had severe internal injuries," Hudner said. "He responded to me very slowly, as if he were very tired. I



President Truman presents Lt. j.g. Hudner with the Medal of Honor in 1951.

knew I didn't have much time if I was to save him."

Hudner ran back to his plane where he grabbed a wool scarf and hat.

"I put the hat on Jesse's head and wrapped the scarf around his hands. Then I jumped down and started packing snow around the cowl, hoping to slow the spread of any fire."

Climbing back up the side of the plane, Hudner resumed his efforts to free Brown. But it was no use. Brown was too badly trapped.

"Through all this Jesse never complained," Hudner said. "He remained calm."

He was conscious but groggy. We talked a bit, but there wasn't much to say. He must have been in a lot of pain, and it was bitterly cold, but he never uttered one word of complaint."

Finally, Hudner heard the staccato beat of a helicopter's rotor. The little craft put down near the wreckage. The pilot carried a fire extinguisher and an ax to Hudner. Together, the pair worked to free Brown. But they couldn't. The ax simply bounced

off the metal pieces that had trapped Brown's legs.

Tough Decision. "The helicopter pilot pulled me aside. He said his aircraft wasn't equipped to fly at night. It would be too dangerous to navigate the mountains at night. He suggested we come back in the morning with more men and equipment."

"He was right, but I knew Jesse wouldn't survive. He was growing weaker by the minute. I told him we were going for help. He gave me a last message for his wife. Then he fell unconscious. I think knowing we were there at the end helped him."

Unfortunately, Brown's body was never recovered. For Hudner's heroic efforts, he received the Medal of Honor from President Truman April 13, 1951. Jesse Brown's widow, Daisy, attended the White House ceremony.

Hudner retired from the Navy as a captain in 1973. Today he serves as the Massachusetts chairman for DoD's Employers Support for Guard and Reserve Commission.

Edward F. Murphy served in the Army from 1965 to 1968. He has written several books, including "Korean War Heroes," "Heroes of World War II" and "Vietnam Medal of Honor Heroes."

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SHOULD INTERNET-BASED COMMERCE BE TAXED?

Gov. James S. Gilmore III, R-Va.



NO The Internet is creating new efficiencies, opening new markets and raising the productivity of workers. And because the Internet is a global medium, the wonderful opportunity now exists to enhance the liberty, knowledge and economic standing of everyone on earth.

But here's the challenge. We live in a world divided into nation-states which set their own national policies. Yet the Internet, a borderless, seamless medium, does not fit neatly into this global structure. Thus, a global Internet policy might be difficult and perhaps impossible for any nation to control or regulate – even within its own borders.

The Internet changes everything including government. In the 20th century, the power to tax and enforce those taxes has been the special preserve of government. The old rules of governing – like the old rules of business – may not work well in the emerging Internet age.

"The old rules of governing – like the old rules of business – may not work well in the emerging Internet age."

should focus our energies not only on providing access to the Internet, but also on empowering people with the knowledge of how to use the Internet to advance their lives. We should seek an international order that frees individuals from unnecessary taxes and tariffs that detract from the quality of life of the people of the world. This is, in my view, a major collision point between the new information age and the old thinking of the past.

Many today believe that sales taxes should be universally imposed on e-commerce over the Internet. As chairman of the Congressional Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce, I have proposed that sales taxes on electronic commerce NOT be imposed on remote transactions between businesses and consumers. We should recognize the wonderful new opportunity for working men and women to be able to enhance the quality of their lives and that of their children as they use the Internet for buying and selling.

The path that we walk today is a path to tomorrow. Government can put stumbling blocks on that path in the form of taxes and regulations, or it can keep it clear of those encumbrances of the old ways of government. Government must view the Internet as an opportunity.

Gov. Tom Vilsack, D-Iowa



YES A fair and equitable sales tax system will ensure the maintenance of important services for all Americans as we begin a new century rich with opportunity.

Internet shopping accounts for a dramatically increasing share of retail business in this country. But e-commerce companies are not required to collect sales taxes. I believe we must have a fair and equitable tax system that ensures all traditional, local Main Street retail stores and e-commerce companies can compete on a level playing field.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that retailers are not required to collect sales taxes when they ship goods into states where they have no physical presence, such as a retail store. So a catalog company, like J.C. Penney, that has a warehouse or a catalog store, can be required to collect local sales taxes. But a company, like L.L. Bean, that does only mail-order business cannot be required to collect taxes.

To date, Internet retailers have been viewed in the same category as strictly mail-order businesses. According to a University of Texas study, Internet sites generated \$300 billion in sales in 1998. That figure is expected to grow rapidly in the next five to 10

years. More and more, consumers are making purchases via the Internet instead of buying products and goods in their own hometown stores.

As a result, schools, police departments, hospitals and other public service providers that depend on sales taxes are seeing a decrease in revenues. Ultimately, these public services will be reduced, or property and income taxes will be increased to offset the decline. Either way, this is not a choice that citizens want.

In April, I was one of 35 governors who sent a letter from the National Governors' Association to House and Senate leaders urging them to reject a report by the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce on the future of Internet taxes. The ACEC's report recommended special tax breaks for e-commerce companies at the expense of local, hometown businesses.

If our federal tax system creates a loophole for retailers that use the Internet, our hometown stores will pay the price. We must not adopt policies that financially hinder

the entrepreneurial spirit this great country was founded upon. We must have a tax system that creates a fair playing field for all business owners and customers, and one that ensures our children are educated and our families are protected.

"We must have a fair and equitable tax system that ensures all ... companies can compete on a level playing field."

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Suing for POW answers

They have sued the U.S. intelligence community for documents on the death of Princess Diana. Now they are after the CIA for documents on missing or abandoned Vietnam POWs.

Attorneys Mark Zaid and Jim Lazar have been retained by researcher Roger Hall in a legal effort to pry POW/MIA documents out of the CIA's hands. In August, a federal judge rejected the agency's motion for dismissal of the case, and Hall says he wants to proceed with depositions of current and former agency officials. Hall is convinced that hundreds of POWs were left behind.

In the POW/MIA case, U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman confirmed that both the CIA and the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) had properly withheld information on the locations of individual POW/MIAs because of family privacy concerns. Hall says that, with the consent of family members, he can go back to court and force the release of the information.

Rainforest hysteria?

After the *New York Times* claimed that open water at the North Pole was caused by global warming, it had to run an embarrassing correction. It turns out that summer North Pole temperatures have been above freezing for decades. But one investigator says that gaffe pales in comparison to the myth that the Amazon rainforest is dwindling at an alarming rate and will be gone in 10 years.

Journalist Marc Morano says, "This is one of the biggest environmental cons of the last two decades." Morano, who works for American Investigator television, visited the Amazon, talking to natives and government officials, only to discover that, "The Amazon rainforest is the most intact, least-endangered forest on the planet. Of the original forest area, only 12.5 percent has been deforested. Of that, 6 or 7 percent has regenerated. So up to 94 percent of the Amazon is left to nature."

The myth has persisted because few people have actually surveyed the area, Morano says. He says the rainforest is so exotic and far away that it lends itself to misinformation by environmental groups and Hollywood celebrities.

Morano's documentary, "Amazon Rainforest - Clear-Cutting the Myths," is airing around the country.



Nigerian soldiers are serving as part of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone and receive training from U.S. Special Forces.

United States entering Africa's quagmire

In yet another deployment, U.S. Army Special Forces teams are training Nigerian soldiers for regional peacekeeping missions. But Human Rights Watch warns that the Nigerians have committed serious human rights abuses against civilians in Sierra Leone and should be monitored closely.

The training is part of a \$10 million U.S. program to "reprofessionalize" the Nigerian military that also includes \$600,000 to bring Nigerian officers to U.S. military schools. The program will provide \$4 million to rehabilitate its fleet of eight C-130 cargo aircraft, which transports Nigerian peacekeepers. In addition, Nigerian soldiers will

attend C-130 maintenance courses at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas.

Nigeria, a country with a foreign debt of \$30 billion, is supplementing the package with a little more than \$3 million of its own money. Where will it come from? Nigeria's main source of revenue is oil, which has been steadily rising in price.

The Nigerians could next be deployed to the Congo, where foreign armies from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia are supporting the government of President Laurent Kabila, while Rwanda- and Uganda-backed rebel groups are fighting him.

- C.K.

Lee's Los Alamos Fallout

After being charged with 59 felony counts last December, Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee pleaded guilty to only one: improperly downloading classified information. After serving a mere 278 days in prison, Lee was released. He also received an apology from U.S. District Judge James Parker, who already had doubts about whether the sensitive material Lee downloaded was truly vital to national security. Opinion is divided over whether the government had a strong case but failed to make it, or that Lee was unfairly targeted.

However, there is no question that the security program at the Department of Energy is a shambles. "In general, over the past 12 years, many requirements for

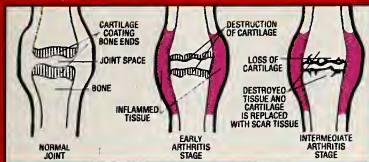
Secret and Top Secret classified-matter protection and control have been discontinued," says a General Accounting Office report. A GAO chart of 10 minimum requirements for controlling secret documents showed that six had been discontinued.

Meanwhile, Edward T. Pound of *USA Today* revealed that Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan told Congress that delays in security clearance investigations have "put at risk" critical programs providing personnel for nuclear weapons and the president's plane, Air Force One. Although several congressional hearings have already been held on the problem, a backlog of more than 500,000 security investigations still exists.

- Cliff Kincaid

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NSAID's lessen the pain for the short term. They trick you into thinking that you're okay... until the next time when pain attacks your fingers, elbows, neck, hip, knee, toes or other joint area of your body. Continuing on this path will further damage your cartilage and joint tissue. Pain... No pain... Pain again. This vicious cycle eventually causes severe joint damage, constant pain, swelling, stiffness and loss of cartilage.

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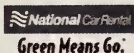
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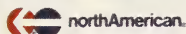


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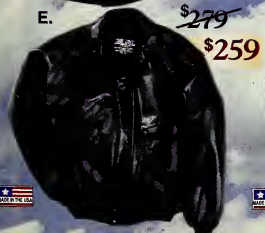
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House introduces Agent Orange bill

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences released a report Oct. 11 regarding its investigation into the available evidence on diabetes and Agent Orange. The report concludes there is suggested evidence of a link between exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam (the contaminant dioxin) and Type 2 (adult-onset) diabetes.

The same day of the report's release, Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., the Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced legislation (HR 5438) that would compensate diabetic Vietnam veterans if passed. In a letter to Acting VA Secretary Hershel Gober, Evans called on VA to issue interim final regulations to compensate affected Vietnam War veterans as soon as possible.

Veterans bill would raise MGIB benefits

Congress recently passed the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act and forwarded it to the White House for the president's signature. The bill contains a number of changes to veterans programs, including one that would increase the monthly benefit for Montgomery GI Bill participants.

The bill (S 1402) would permit service members to "buy up" their MGIB basic benefit by making an after-tax contribution of up to \$600. That would provide up to \$5,400 in additional benefits over 36 months of entitlement, or an additional \$150 per month. The bill also would increase the basic educational allowance for survivors and dependents to \$588 per month, with annual cost-of-living adjustments.

The bill also would mandate a new study on post traumatic stress disorder and an increase in coverage of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and other changes.



National Commander Ray Smith talks with Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., sponsor of the Veterans Claims Assistance Act (HR 4864). Considered a victory for thousands of vets seeking disability compensation, the bill now awaits the president's signature.

Vet claims bill goes to president

Army veteran Jack Morton died before his lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs could be resolved. But The American Legion has carried his fight to a likely favorable ending for thousands of veterans seeking disability compensation from VA.

The Veterans Claims Assistance Act (HR 4864) that Congress sent to President Clinton Oct. 17 would require VA to assist all claimants for veterans benefits at the onset of the claims process. If signed by the president, the measure would correct a July 1999 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims that required the VA to assist only those claimants whose cases have been predetermined by VA to be "well-grounded."

"Federal law should not force VA to disregard claims that might later be proved valid," National Commander Ray Smith said. "The VA should be allowed to help claimants gather all the facts, as it did prior to the Morton case — even if it means giving the veteran a physical, free of charge."

Morton, who served on active duty during World War II, died in May while his case was on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The American Legion has requested that Congress provide funding to hire additional VA staff to keep pace with new claims. An estimated 80,000 claims denied since the Morton ruling would be eligible for resubmission.

Abused POWs eligible for medal

Thanks to a little-publicized four-year-old change in criteria, former American POWs may be eligible to receive the Purple Heart medal.

The 1996 National Defense Authorization Act stated that POWs wounded or injured during captivity before April 25, 1962, are eligible for the award. Since then, a number of World War II and Korean War vets have applied for Purple Hearts on the basis of wounds and injuries received while they were POWs, officials of the Army's Military Awards branch said. Supporting documentation is required and may in-



clude copies of repatriation medical exams or witness statements from a fellow soldier or cellmate.

A recent example is a group of troops who earned the Purple Heart following their captivity more than a year ago in the Balkans.

Three U.S. soldiers who endured frequent beatings while imprisoned received medals.

Officials at the Military Order of the Purple Heart headquarters in Springfield, Va., said veterans applying for the medal should use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records," which is available at VA service and medical centers.

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TALM reaps awards

The American Legion Magazine won 12 Mature Media National Awards in 2000, in the categories of Color Photograph, Magazine Article, Graphic Design and Magazine Article Series. Mature Media is a national awards program recognizing the best advertising, marketing and educational materials produced for adults age 50 and older.



Courtesy: Foundation for the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Monument

The American Legion has joined with French veterans' groups in financially supporting repair of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Monument in Paris, where 52 World War I American pilots are buried.

Legion aids memorial

The American Legion is chipping in to help restore a French memorial honoring World War I American volunteer pilots.

The Overseas Graves Decoration Trust met recently to consider a request for funds from the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Foundation in France, which is spearheading an effort to repair the monument where 52 American pilots and two of their commanding French officers are buried. The trust resolved to send a contribution of \$25,000, or about 195,000 francs.

The Legion's donation will be added to \$70,000 in gifts and pledges already received by French veterans groups. The French government will assume 75 percent of the repair costs, estimated to be about \$770,000.

The La Fayette Escadrille was a group of American volunteer pilots who started out in the French Foreign Legion and transferred to the French Air Force in December 1914. In spring 1916, an all-American pilot unit was authorized.

Legion champ wins Olympic Gold

An American Legion Baseball star is now an Olympic hero. Ben Sheets led Team USA to an upset 4-0 victory over Cuba, winning the Gold Medal after pitching nine innings against Cuba with no walks. He was in complete command throughout the game, coaxing one ground ball after another.

Back in 1996, Sheets hurled for Gonzales, La., Post 81, helping his team place second in The American Legion World Series. In that series, he won the Bob Feller Pitching Award for most strikeouts.

Sheets will be elevated from the Indianapolis Indians minor league team to the Milwaukee Brewers, where he is projected as a starting pitcher for 2001.



Former American Legion World Series star Ben Sheets celebrates after defeating Cuba for Olympic Gold Sept. 27 in Sydney, Australia.

Michigan starts up 33 new Posts

Michigan has gone into previously overlooked territories in establishing 33 new Posts and revitalizing seven others in the past three years.

The state's new Post and revitalization leader Al Ford listened well when Past National Commander Daniel Ludwig declared at a national membership conference, "Wherever there's a high school, The American Legion should have a Post to serve the community."

Of 660 Michigan communities with high schools, only 435 had American Legion Posts. Ford investigated school districts without Posts and made contacts, and new Posts emerged.

The Department also has made pro-

gress with Indian tribes and union locals.

"A lot of Indian tribes have gambling these days," Ford said. "In some places where it got a little bit lucrative, all tribal members shared in income. But the U.S. government responded by eliminating pensions to vets on those reservations. It didn't make sense. A lot of these people find themselves in meager circumstances."

In helping tribes reactivate pension claims, Ford came to realize that tribes have large veteran populations. As a result of Ford's enterprise and tribe interest, three new American Legion Posts were activated by the Potawatomi Indian Reservation in the Upper Peninsula, the Isabella Indian Reservation at Mount Pleasant and The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians at Suttons Bay.

Noting that "Michigan is blessed with the automobile industry," Ford went a few steps further, contacting locals of the United Automobile Workers. "Typically they have their own veterans commissions," Ford said, "and we offer a service officer for assistance."

That also led to new Posts, and Ford recommends other Departments explore these same areas for expansion.



Frank James, left, oldest and most-decorated veteran of The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, shares a moment with Al Ford of the Michigan Department.



COLLECTOR'S ITEM - Susan Campbell of Edenton, N.C., presents National Commander Ray Smith with a 1919 lapel pin at a reception following his inauguration Sept. 7 at the 82nd National Convention in Milwaukee. The pin, made in Paris the year The American Legion was founded, was secured by Campbell and her husband, Richard, over the Internet. The Campbells belong to Edward G. Bond Post 40 in Edenton.



TALM now 17th largest

The American Legion Magazine was rated as the 17th largest consumer magazine in the United States, according to an Advertising Age magazine report.

With an average circulation of 2.6 million for the first half of 2000, *The American Legion Magazine* is larger than such well-known publications as *U.S. News and World Report* (2.1 million), *Rolling Stone* (1.3 million) and *The New Yorker* (843,000).



Daniel Crews and Kate Benjamin take aim alongside other competitors at the Junior Rifle Precision Championships.

Sharpshooters snag scholarships

The 2000 American Legion Junior Rifle National Precision Championship, held Aug. 7 to 11 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., recognized the national champions at an awards banquet recently.

Daniel Crews of Winston, Ga., a member of the Douglas County Youth Shooting Sports Club "Hawkeyes" sponsored by American Legion Frank Burris Post 145, won the Precision championship title, scoring 2449.0 out of 2509.

Joshua Peters, who hails from Richmond, Va., and is a member of Turkey Creek 4-H Shooting Education Club,

attained the Sporter championship title. Peters, who was sponsored by American Legion South Richmond Post 137, scored 2272.9 out of 2509.

All competitors fired from prone, standing and kneeling positions in either of two air-rifle categories: Precision or Sporter. Precision air rifles are exactly like those used in the Olympic games, while Sporters are geared toward entry-level participants.

For their titles, Crews and Peters each earned a trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Sons of The American Legion.

Legionnaire joined 80 years ago

Urban Schick is the oldest known person with a continuous membership in The American Legion, and he has lived a full and colorful life.

Schick celebrated his 104th birthday Oct. 6. He joined American Legion Post 224 in Kansas City in 1921. In July, the Post honored Schick with an 80-year American Legion membership certificate.

According to Schick's nephew, Bruce O'Neal, his uncle's parade of



Urban Schick

memories includes playing baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals; attending law school with Harry S. Truman and future Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Whitaker; living next door, in peace, to the notorious hoodlum Machine Gun Kelly; and playing jazz with the legendary Coonsanders Nighthawk Orchestra.



MEMORIAL TO ALL - Members of Post 375 in Mukwonago, Wis., recently dedicated a memorial to honor veterans from all branches of the military. In the background is a World War II howitzer. Post 375 is led by Commander Ron Flury.

House exonerates USS Indianapolis captain

In 1996, The American Legion Naval Affairs Committee passed a resolution calling for an investigation into the events surrounding the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* and subsequent court martial of Charles Butler McVay III, its captain. The ship was sunk by two Japanese torpedoes four days after delivering the Hiroshima atomic bomb to the island of Tinian.

The committee saw its goal met Oct. 11, when the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that included the exoneration of McVay in one of the worst naval disasters in U.S. history and awarded a Navy Unit Commendation to the USS *Indianapolis* and its final crew. One day later, the Senate approved the conference report of the legislation by a resounding margin.

The actual language of the legislation states "Capt. McVay's record should now reflect that he is exonerated for the loss of the *Indianapolis* and so many of her crew." Supporters say no problems are foreseen in the legislation being signed by President Clinton.

Robert Klipstine, a member of Post 487 in West Milton, Ohio, a Past Department Commander and National Commander's Aide and current National Vice Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, said there had been discussion surrounding McVay's court martial for years.

"There were so many questions about it, and it created a lot of controversy. It had

been a hot issue for a long, long time," Klipstine said. "A lot about the situation really wasn't known, and some of his relatives approached the Legion wanting to get his name cleared. That's why we had the stand that we did."

"(McVay) was doing what he thought was right. He was out there by himself."



New legislation in Congress awards a Navy Unit Commendation to the USS *Indianapolis* and its final crew.

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Anyone who served with the 465th Bomb Wing (SAC) from Oct. 1965 to Aug. 1967 at Robins AFB, Ga., or with the 1961st Com. Gp. from Oct. 1967 to April 1968 at Clark AB, Philippines, contact Don Phillips at 600 Twin Court, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379, call (320)252-4794 or e-mail drplcloud@earthlink.net.

Any former members of the Army Graves Registration Service who served with the 27th Army Div. during the Makin Island invasion in WWII contact Jerome P. Steigmann, 15422 N. 2nd Way, Phoenix, AZ 85022 or call (602)993-1824, fax to (602)993-2933 or e-mail MAS15422@aol.com.

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TAPS

Henry S. Bialoglowy, Dept. of Connecticut. Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1963-1981, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Alt. Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1977-1979, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Liaison 1980-1982, Nat'l Children & Youth Liaison 1984-1985, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1979-1985, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1987-1996, Nat'l Public Relations Cmte. Memb. 1982-1984 and Dept. Cmdr. 1966-1967.

Clarence E. Blake, Dept. of Kansas. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1972-1975 and 1980-1981, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1974-1976, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Consultant 1976-1977, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1977-1983, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1978-1979 and Dept. Cmdr. 1982-1983.

Anthony L. Buras Sr., Dept. of Louisiana. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1969-1973, Nat'l Counter Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1978-1980, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Vice Chmn. 1987-2000, Dept. Cmdr. 1983-1984 and numerous Dept. positions from 1979 to 1983.

William C. Farmer, Dept. of Texas. Nat'l. Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1987-1990, Dept. Cmdr. 1994-1995 and numerous Dept. positions 1975-1994.

Philip L. Hall, Dept. of Iowa. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977 and Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1980-1999.

Melvin H. Heckman, Dept. of Indiana. Nat'l Sec. Train. Cmte. Memb. 1958-1960, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1960-1965, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1965-1969, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1969-1977, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Memb. 1969-1973, Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Liaison Memb. 1973-1977, Nat'l M&PA Cmte. Memb. 1977-1983 and Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1982-1987.

Dr. Gordon L. Patterson, Dept. of Nebraska. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1989-1990 and Nat'l Chaplain 1985-1986.

Paul B. Phifer Jr., Dept. of Virginia. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1978-1988, Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Memb. 1978-1981, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1980-1995, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Chmn. 1995-2000, Dept. Cmdr. 1976-1977 and numerous Dept. positions 1974-2000.

Robert H. Wheeler, Dept. of Florida. Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1970-1972, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1972-1975, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1980, Nat'l M&PA Cmte. Memb. 1983-1984, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1986-1989 and Nat'l American Legion Life Insurance & Trust Cmte. Memb. 1989-1991. Harold J. Wilchen, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Pilgrimage Cmte. Memb. 1958-1960, Nat'l M&PA Cmte. Memb. 1960-1972, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1974-1975, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1975-1978, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1975-1984, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1976, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1980-1981, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1982-1983 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1991-2000.

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1. Title of Publication: THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

2. Publication Number 0886-1234

4. Date of filing: September 27, 2000.

4. Frequency of issue: Monthly.

5. No. of issues published annually: 12.

6. Annual subscription price: \$3.00.

7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46216 (Marion County).

8. Complete mailing address of headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 700 North Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

9. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor.

Publisher: Dick McNally, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Editor: John Raughter, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Managing Editor: Ron Hyink, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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13. Publication Title: The American Legion
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2000

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. of Copies		
Printed	2,639,373	2,608,105
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541	2,628,545	2,597,370
2. Paid In-County Subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	5,613	5,531
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— Steve Bluestone

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— Submitted by JoAnn Ridings, Durant, Okla.



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— Submitted by Lorene Workman, Wichita, Kan.

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